

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 979.52

(2) If such excess is not retained in a reserve or used to defray necessary expenses of liquidation, as provided for in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the handlers from whom collected, except any sum paid by any handler in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such handler.

(b) [Reserved]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 979.48 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research, and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption, or efficient production of melons. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 979.42.

REGULATIONS

§ 979.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Prior to or at the same time initial recommendations in any fiscal period are made pursuant to § 979.51, and as the Secretary may require, the committee shall prepare a marketing policy statement. Notice of such marketing policy shall be given to producers, handlers, and other interested parties by bulletins, newspapers or other appropriate media, and copies thereof shall be submitted to the Secretary and shall be available at the committee office to all interested parties;

(b) Marketing policy statements relating to recommendations for regulations shall give appropriate consideration to melon supplies for the remainder of the season, with special consideration to:

(1) Estimates of total supplies including grade, size, and quality thereof, in the production area;

(2) Estimates of supplies of melons in competing areas;

(3) Estimates of supplies of other competing commodities;

(4) Market prices by grades, sizes, containers, and packs;

(5) Anticipated marketing problems;

(6) Level and trend of consumer income; and

(7) Other relevant factors.

§ 979.51 Recommendations for regulations.

Upon complying with requirements of § 979.50, the committee may recommend regulations to the Secretary when it finds that such regulations are authorized in this order will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

§ 979.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit by regulation the handling of melons when he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(b) Such regulations may:

(1) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, maturities, qualities, or packs, or any combination thereof, of any or all varieties of melons during any period;

(2) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, maturities, qualities, or packs of melons differently for different varieties, for different markets, for different containers, or any combination of the foregoing, during any period;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimension, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of melons, including appropriate container markings to identify the contents thereof.

(c) The regulations or any portions of such regulations issued hereunder may be amended, modified, suspended, or terminated by the Secretary whenever it is determined:

(1) That such action is warranted upon recommendation of the committee or other available information;

(2) That such action is essential to provide relief from inspection, assessment, or regulations under paragraph (b) of this section for minimum quantities less than customary commercial transactions; or

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(3) That regulations issued hereunder obstruct or no longer tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

§ 979.54 Handling for special purposes.

Regulations in effect pursuant to §§ 979.42, 979.52, or 979.60 may be modified, suspended, or terminated by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, to facilitate handling of melons for: (a) Relief or charity, (b) experimental purposes, (c) exports, and (d) other special purposes, which may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 979.55 Safeguards.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish through rules and regulations, the requirements with respect to proof that shipments made pursuant to § 979.54 were handled and used for the purpose stated.

§ 979.56 Notification of regulations.

The Secretary shall promptly notify the committee of regulations issued and of any modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give notice thereof to all handlers of melons in the production area. In addition, the committee shall make the information available to growers through appropriate news releases or such other means as may be available.

INSPECTION

§ 979.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of melons is regulated pursuant to § 979.52 or at other times when recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, no handler shall handle melons unless they are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to § 979.52(c), or § 979.54, or paragraph (b) of this section. The cost of such inspection shall be borne by the applicant.

(b) Regrading, resorting, repacking any lot of melons, or breaking any lot (without continuing identification of applicable inspection or subcertification thereof) shall invalidate any applicable inspection certificate insofar

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as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall handle melons after a lot has been broken, regraded, repacked, or resorted, or in any other way additionally prepared for market, unless such melons are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. Such inspection requirements on regraded, resorted, repacked, or broken lots of melons may be modified, suspended or terminated upon recommendation by the committee, and approval of the Secretary.

(c) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) When melons are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the Inspection Service.

(e) The committee may recommend and the Secretary may require that no handler shall transport or cause the transportation of melons by motor vehicle or by other means unless such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate issued thereon, or such other documents as may be required by the committee. Such certificates or documents shall be surrendered to proper authorities at such time and in such manner as may be designated by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

REPORTS

§ 979.80 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and form and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) The number of acres of melons and the approximate dates planted, for all melons which will be handled by each handler;